

Serial No. 10/751,294

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 10 wherein the first recess includes a reduced opening so as to keep the first cylinder ~~of the first male member~~ therein.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 10 wherein the second recess includes a reduced opening so as to keep the second cylinder ~~of the second male member~~ therein.

Claims 6-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A safety device ~~according for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a male member while the lateral members are female members, wherein the male member includes a first cylinder formed at an end and a second cylinder formed at an opposite end, with the first and second cylinders each having an axis and a first side and a second side spaced along the axis from the first side, and the first female member defines a first recess into which the first cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the first cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the first lateral member and in which the first cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the first cylinder, and the second female member defines a second recess into which the second cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to~~ claim 13 the axis of the second cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the second lateral member and in which the second cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the second cylinder, with the first and second cylinders having cross sections at the first and second sides of a same shape and size, wherein the first female member includes a bar located opposite to the first recess thereof and spaced from the first recess in a direction perpendicular to the axis, with the bar to be wound with an end of the collar.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A safety device ~~according for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a male member while~~

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the lateral members are female members, wherein the male member includes a first cylinder formed at an end and a second cylinder formed at an opposite end, with the first and second cylinders each having an axis and a first side and a second side spaced along the axis from the first side, and the first female member defines a first recess into which the first cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the first cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the first lateral member and in which the first cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the first cylinder, and the second female member defines a second recess into which the second cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to claim-13 the axis of the second cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the second lateral member and in which the second cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the second cylinder, with the first and second cylinders having cross sections at the first and second sides of a same shape and size, wherein the second female member includes a bar located opposite to the second recess thereof and spaced from the second recess in a direction perpendicular to the axis, with the bar to be wound with an end of the collar.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 10 with the first and second cylinders having cross sections of a constant shape and size between the first and second sides.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 14 with the first and second cylinders terminating in the first and second sides.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A safety device according for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a male member while the lateral members are female members, wherein the male member includes a first cylinder formed at an end and a second cylinder formed at an opposite end, with the first and second cylinders each having an axis and a first side and a second side spaced along the axis from the first side, and the first female member defines a first recess into which the first cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the first cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the first lateral member and in which the first cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the first cylinder, and the second

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female member defines a second recess into which the second cylinder can be forced in a direction perpendicular to ~~claim 15~~ the axis of the second cylinder without disassembly of either of the central member and the second lateral member and in which the second cylinder can be pivoted about the axis of the second cylinder, with the first and second cylinders having cross sections at the first and second sides of a same shape and size, with the first and second cylinders having cross sections of a constant shape and size between the first and second sides, with the first and second cylinders terminating in the first and second sides, wherein the first recess of the first female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the first cylinder therein, wherein the first lateral member further comprises a third cylinder having an axis parallel to and spaced from the first recess, with the reduced opening of the first recess extending in a direction from the first recess opposite to the third cylinder, with the third cylinder to be wound by an end of the collar, wherein the second recess of the second female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the second cylinder therein, wherein the second lateral member further comprises a fourth cylinder having an axis parallel to and spaced from the second recess, with the reduced opening of the second recess extending in a direction from the second recess opposite to the fourth cylinder, with the fourth cylinder to be wound by an end of the collar.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 10 wherein the first recess of the first female member has a length parallel to the axis of the first cylinder, with the male member including a passage spaced inwardly of the first cylinder and having a length parallel to the axis of the first cylinder generally equal to the length of the first recess for pivotally receiving the first female member and the first recess of the first female member therein, wherein the second recess of the second female member has a length parallel to the axis of the second cylinder, with the male member including a passage spaced inwardly of the second cylinder and having a length parallel to the axis of the second cylinder generally equal to the length of the second recess for pivotally receiving the second female member and the second recess of the second female member therein.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 11 with the ~~cylinders of the first and second male members~~ cylinders each having cross sections of a constant shape and size between the first and second sides.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim 19 with the ~~cylinders of the~~ first and second ~~male-members~~ cylinders each terminating in the first and second sides.

Claims 21 and 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 10 wherein the first cylinder is pivotal about the axis in the first recess and the second cylinder is pivotal about the axis in the second recess.